



AMAZON

#1
APR 98

\$1.95 US
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JOHN BYRNE • TERRY AUSTIN

DIRECT SALES

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Family History

A MOMENT AGO THE SKY WAS CLEAR, THE OCEAN CALM AND SMOOTH AS MIRRORED GLASS.

BUT EVEN AS SHE RODE THE GENTLE BREEZE HIGH ABOVE THE SEA, SHE KNEW THE MOMENT OF TRANQUILITY WAS MERE ILLUSION.

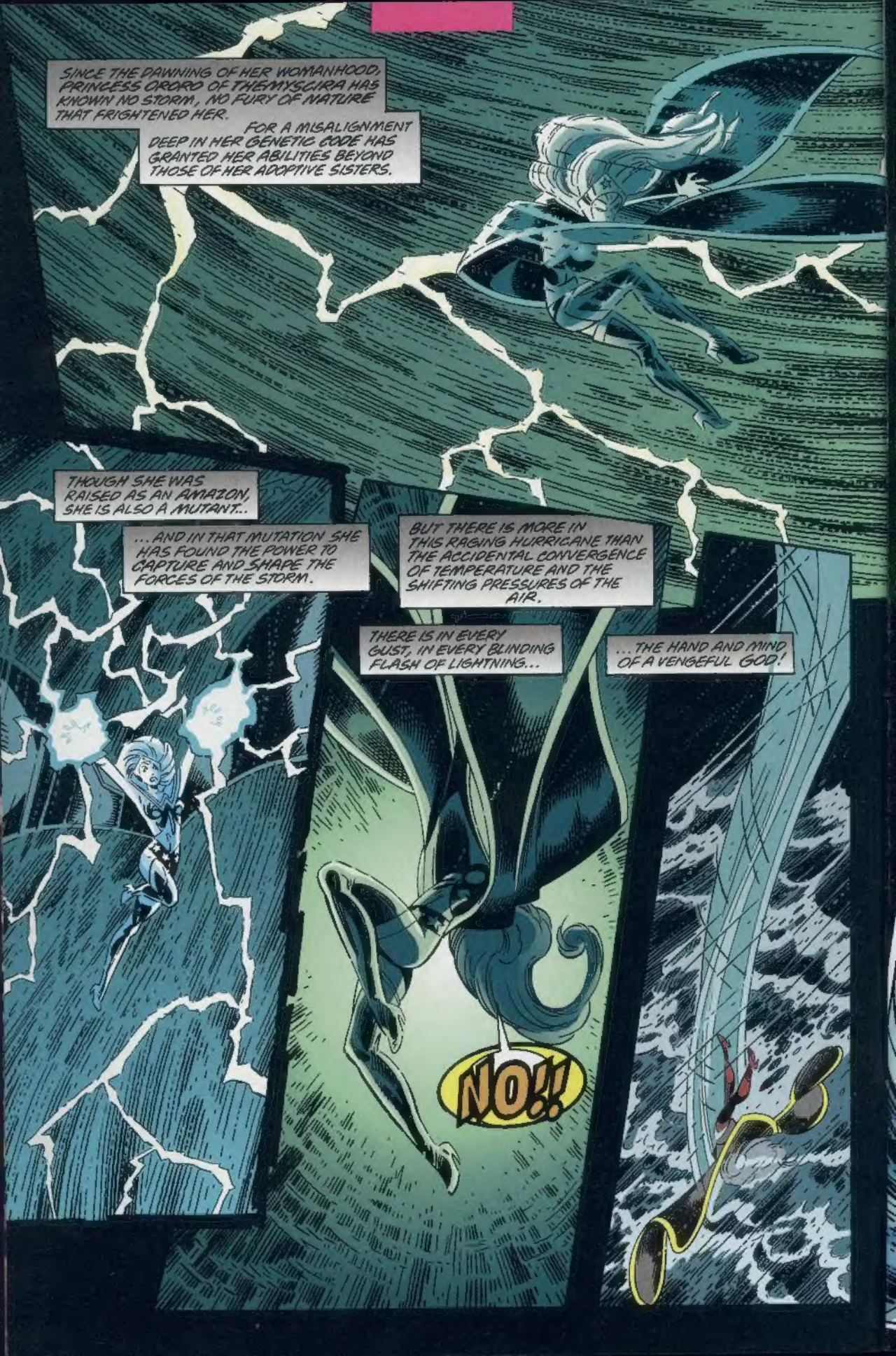
SHE KNEW THIS DAY WOULD END IN VIOLENCE AND TRAGEDY.

WHAT SHE COULD NOT KNOW WAS THAT IT WOULD ALSO HOLD A REVELATION TORN FROM THE SHROUDED, SECRET PAST OF THE AMAZON WARRIOR KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS...

WONDER WOMAN

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SINCE THE DAWNING OF HER WOMANHOOD, PRINCESS ORORO OF THE MYSCIRA HAS KNOWN NO STORM, NO FURY OF NATURE THAT FRIGHTENED HER.

FOR A MISALIGNMENT DEEP IN HER GENETIC CODE HAS GRANTED HER ABILITIES BEYOND THOSE OF HER ADOPTIVE SISTERS.

THOUGH SHE WAS RAISED AS AN AMAZON, SHE IS ALSO A MUTANT...

... AND IN THAT MUTATION SHE HAS FOUND THE POWER TO CAPTURE AND SHAPE THE FORCES OF THE STORM.

BUT THERE IS MORE IN THIS RAGING HURRICANE THAN THE ACCIDENTAL CONVERGENCE OF TEMPERATURE AND THE SHIFTING PRESSURES OF THE AIR.

THERE IS IN EVERY GUST, IN EVERY BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHTNING...

... THE HAND AND MIND OF A VENGEFUL GOD!

NO!!

THE FREEZING WATERS
CLOSE ABOUT HER.

IN LESS THAN A HEARTBEAT,
THOUGHT AND REASON ARE
SWEEPED FROM HER BRAIN.

ANCIENT, PRIMAL FEAR
REACHES OUT COLD HANDS
FROM THE SHADOWED
CORNERS OF HER SOUL.

AND, AS IF TO TAUNT
HER, TO TORTURE HER
FURTHER...

... THE MOMENTS LEADING TO
THIS IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT
REPLAY THEMSELVES BEFORE
HER MIND'S EYE.

YOUR
POWER IS GREAT,
WONDER
WOMAN.

AS GREAT,
PERHAPS, AS SOME
WHO DWELL UPON
THE FABLED SLOPES
OF OLYMPUS



BUT NOT SO GREAT AS MINE!

YOU COMMAND THE STORM...

... BUT ALL THE POWER OF THE OCEAN IS POSEIDON'S TO COMMAND!



POWERFUL YOU ARE, SEA GOD.

BUT YOU FACE NOW AN AMAZON! AND NO AMAZON ADMITS DEFEAT UNTIL THE LAST BREATH IS CRUSHED FROM HER BREAST!



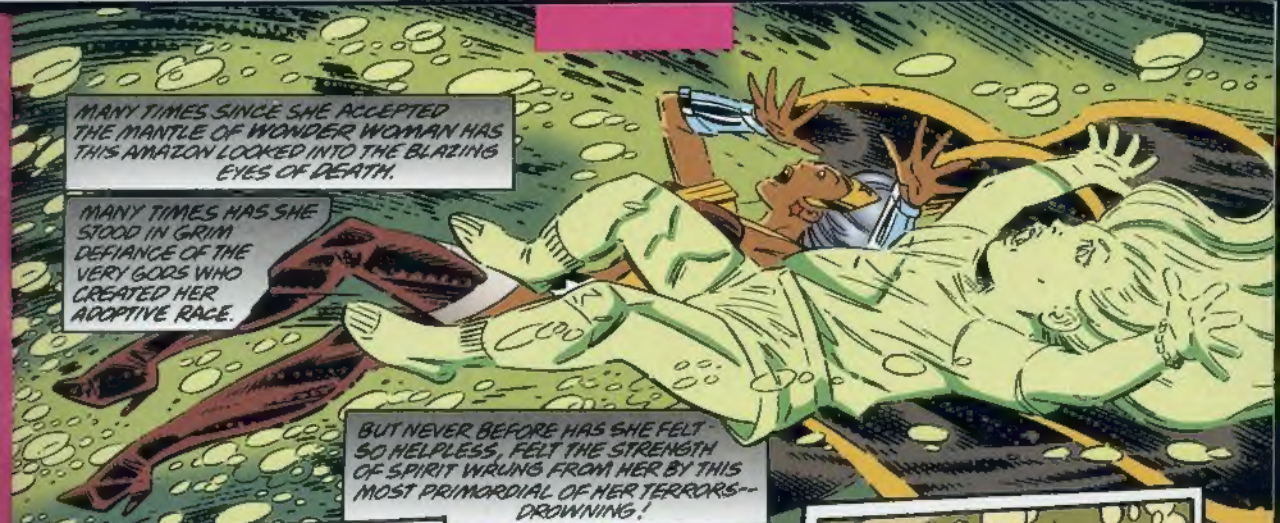
DO NOT BE SO HASTY, THEN, TO COUNT THIS DAY AS YOURS!

AH-GH!!!



VERY WELL, THEN, AMAZON. IT WOULD SEEM I HAVE UNDER-ESTIMATED YOU.

THAT IS AN ERROR WHICH SHALL NOT BE REPEATED



MANY TIMES SINCE SHE ACCEPTED THE MANTLE OF WONDER WOMAN HAS THIS AMAZON LOOKED INTO THE BLAZING EYES OF DEATH.

MANY TIMES HAS SHE STOOD IN GRIM DEFIANCE OF THE VERY GODS WHO CREATED HER ADOPTIVE RACE.

BUT NEVER BEFORE HAS SHE FELT SO HELPLESS, FELT THE STRENGTH OF SPIRIT WRING FROM HER BY THIS MOST PRIMORDIAL OF HER TERRORS-- DROWNING!

HER MIND IS HURLED BACK AGAIN.

FURTHER BACK ALMOST TO THE VERY EDGE OF CONSCIOUS MEMORY, TO THE ORIGIN OF HER FEAR.

SHE REMEMBERS THE COLD DARKNESS.

THE WATERS, THEN AS NOW FLOODING INTO HER, FILLING HER.

AND SHE REMEMBERS A SUDDEN, INEXPLICABLE SALVATION.

BUT ALL SUCH THOUGHT AND MEMORY IS SWEEP AWAY...

... AS WONDER WOMAN FINDS HERSELF SUDDENLY HURLED FROM THE CHILLING WATERS...



...ONTO A DARK
AND UNFAMILIAR
SHORE.

WHERE...?

SLOWLY HER EYES ADJUST TO
THE DIM LIGHT, THE PHANTOM
GLOW OF SHIMMERING PHOSPHORS
IN WALLS WORN SMOOTH BY UN-
COUNTED AGES OF SHIFTING TIDES.

HERA AND
ATHENA PROTECT
AND GUIDE ME! THIS
CAN BE BUT ONE
PLACE.

THE THRONE
ROOM OF THE
SEA GOD!

MEANWHILE...

ACROSS A SPACE MEASURED BY MORE THAN MERELY TIME AND DISTANCE...

... A WINTER'S EVENING CLOSES OVER THE ROOFTOPS OF BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA...

... AND IN ONE OF THE VENERABLE OLD MANSIONS THAT STAND IN SOLEMN MEMORY OF BETTER DAYS...

... WE FIND TWO FAMILIAR FACES CLOUDDED WITH CONCERN.

LEAVE IT BE, ANGELICA. IF SHE'S NOT HOME...



ORORO?



ORORO? ARE YOU IN THERE?



... THERE'S ALL THE MORE REASON TO BE CONCERNED.

YOU KNOW MY PSYCHIC FLASHES ARE ALMOST NEVER WRONG, MOTHER. AND SOMETHING HAS BEEN JABBING AT ME ALL DAY.

I JUST KNOW ORORO IS IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A PART OF THIS, YOU CAN LEAVE.

BUT I HAVE TO GET INTO HER APARTMENT.





ORORO??

SEE? SHE'S NOT
HERE. NOW COME
ALONG...

WAIT. THERE'S
SOMEONE IN THE
BEDROOM...

YES! THERE'S
DEFINITELY SOME-
ONE MOVING
AROUND IN THERE.



WHO...??

ORORO...?

YOU'RE
NOT..



HOLY...!!

HELP..
ME..

OBLIVIOUS TO THIS NEW MYSTERY WHICH NOW CONFRONTS HER DISTANT FRIENDS...

...THE OBJECT OF DIANA'S SEARCH PUZZLES OVER HER OWN.

BUT... WHY HAS HE BROUGHT ME HERE? MY LIFE WAS HIS FOR THE TAKING.

DOES HE MEAN TO ADD MY BONES TO HIS TREASURE TROVE?

YET, HERE... SOMETHING ALMOST FAMILIAR...

SOMETHING... FROM A LONG TIME AGO...

OH, IT IS BEAUTIFUL.

BEAUTIFUL AND DEADLY. I AM CONVINCED THIS IS THE CAUSE OF ALL THE TRAGEDY THAT HAS STALKED ME SINCE I BROUGHT IT UP FROM THE SEABED OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

THIEF!!

LIKE ALL MORTALS, YOU ARE NO MORE THAN A COMMON SCAVENGER!

THE HARDEST-WON TREASURE OF ANOTHER IS NO MORE THAN A TRINKET IN YOUR THIEVING GRASP!

OH-HH!!

I KNOW NOT WHAT YOU MEAN, OLD GOD.

IT WAS BY YOUR HAND THAT I WAS PLUCKED FROM THE SKIES ABOVE MY SURFACE HOME...

... AND IT WAS BY YOUR WILL THAT I CAME TO THIS PLACE. IF YOU HAVE REASON BEHIND THIS MADNESS...

...STATE IT NOW, OR KILL ME AND BE DONE WITH IT!

DO NOT ADD LIES TO YOUR CRIMES, MORTAL... THAT YOUR EYE AND HAND WERE DRAWN SO INSTINCTIVELY TO THAT, OF ALL THE TREASURE IN MY GROTTO...

... PROVES IT WAS NO ACCIDENT THAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE VESSEL I DESTROYED SO MANY YEARS AGO.

"DESTROYED..."

YOU CAN'T BEAT ME, 'ORO'!

YOU'RE NOT EVEN A REAL AMAZON!

YES I AM!

YES I AM!!

DIANA! ORORO!

YOU SEE MAJESTY? IT IS AS I WARNED YOU-- TWO SUCH FIERY SPIRITS CAN NOT LONG BE CONTAINED BY THIS SINGLE ISLAND!

STOP THIS FOOLISHNESS AT ONCE!

SHE STARTED IT, NOTHER!

DID NOT!! IT WAS HER!

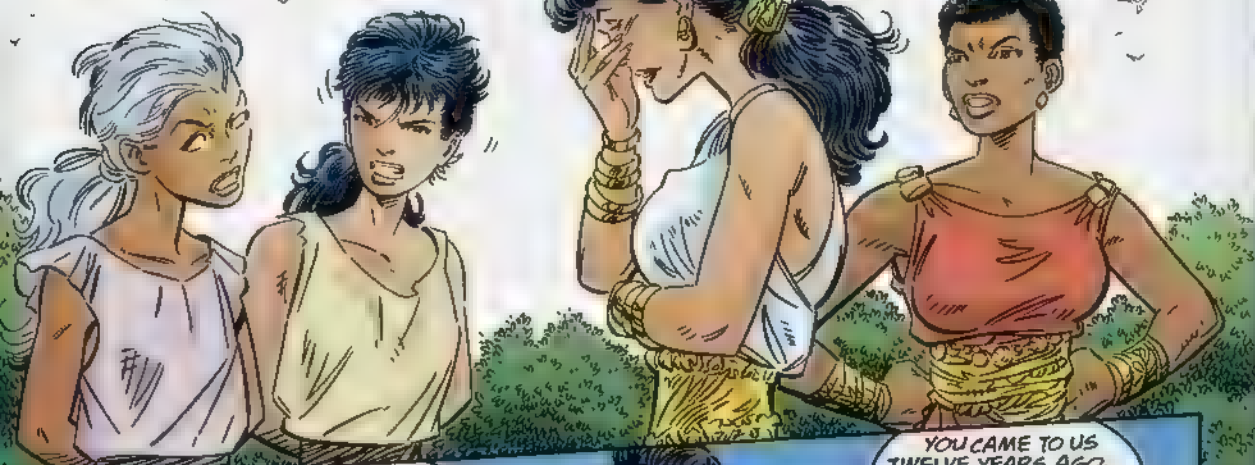
FROM WHAT I SAW, IT WAS BOTH OF YOU! NOW, EXPLAIN YOURSELVES!

DIANA SAID I'M NOT A REAL AMAZON, MOTHER. SHE SAID I'M NOT REALLY YOUR DAUGHTER.

BUT THAT'S TRUE! TELL HER SO, MOTHER! SHE CAME FROM OUTSIDE.

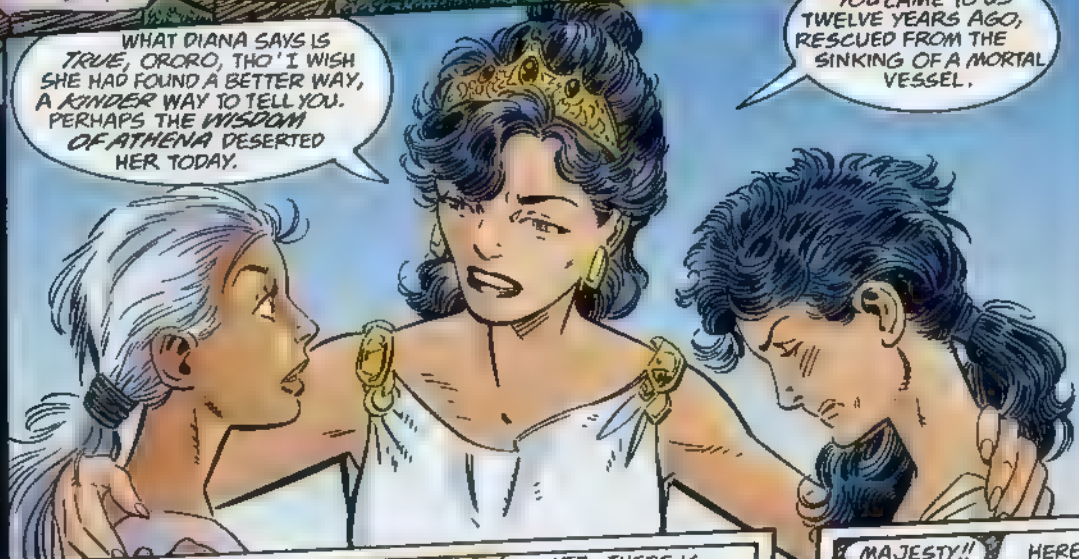
SIGH: THIS IS A DAY I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO SEE POSTPONED A WHILE LONGER.

AS WOULD I. BUT, SINCE IT SEEMS TO BE UPON US, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST TO SEIZE THIS BULL'S HORNS BEFORE THEY DO EVEN GREATER DAMAGE.



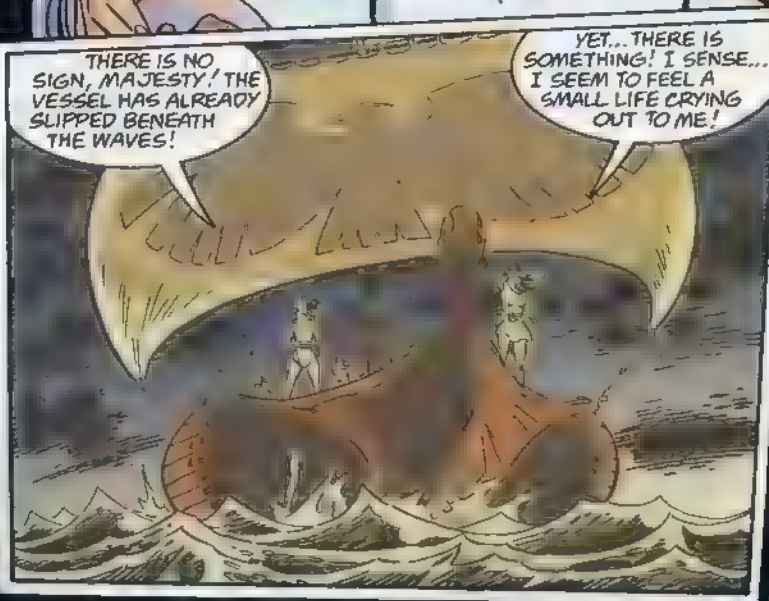
WHAT DIANA SAYS IS TRUE, ORORO, THO' I WISH SHE HAD FOUND A BETTER WAY, A KINDER WAY TO TELL YOU. PERHAPS THE WISDOM OF ATHENA DESERTED HER TODAY.

YOU CAME TO US TWELVE YEARS AGO, RESCUED FROM THE SINKING OF A MORTAL VESSEL.



THERE IS NO SIGN, MAJESTY! THE VESSEL HAS ALREADY SLIPPED BENEATH THE WAVES!

YET... THERE IS SOMETHING! I SENSE... I SEEM TO FEEL A SMALL LIFE CRYING OUT TO ME!



MAJESTY!!

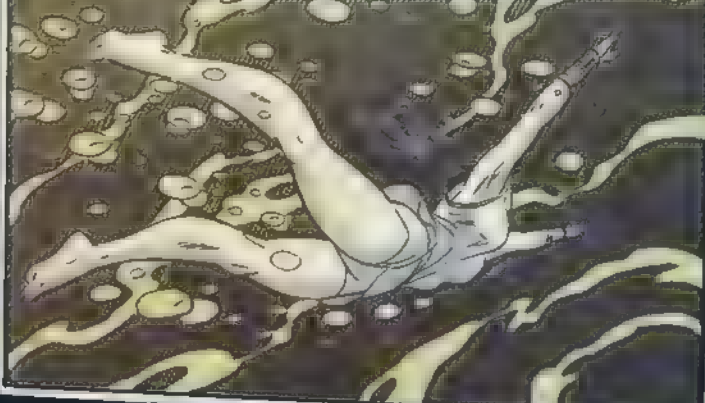
HERE! WHAT I FEEL IS RIGHT BELOW US!



"TO THIS DAY I DO NOT KNOW
WHAT FORCES GUIDED ME, ORORO."

"BUT I KNEW THERE WAS A SOUL
IN NEED. A CHILD CALLING OUT TO
ME AS SURE AND STRONG AS HAD
DIANA BEFORE SHE WAS CREATED."

"AND THERE, GRASPING
BLINDLY IN THE DARKNESS,
I FOUND YOU."

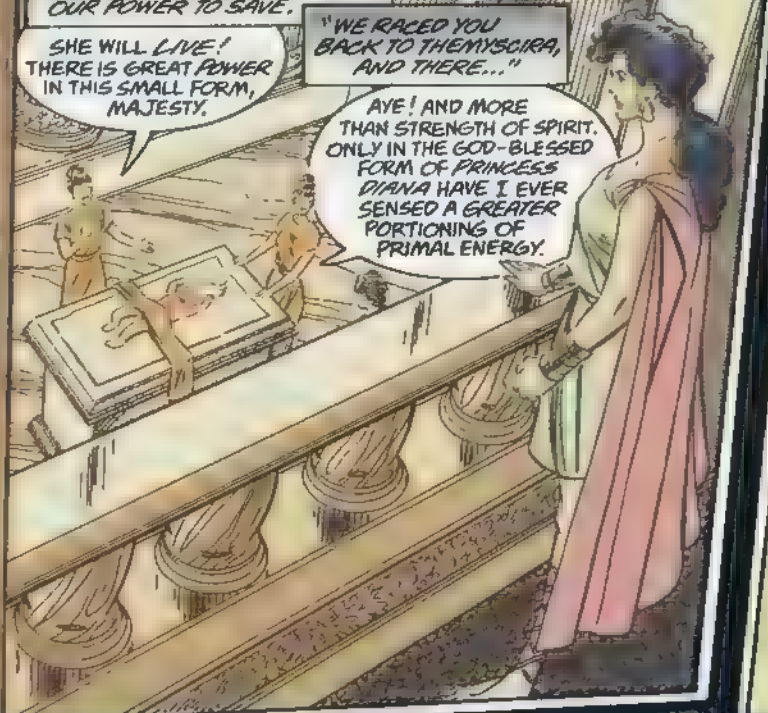


"YOU WERE AS CLOSE TO DEATH
AS ANY MORTAL SOUL CAN BE
AND NOT BE PASSED BEYOND
OUR POWER TO SAVE."

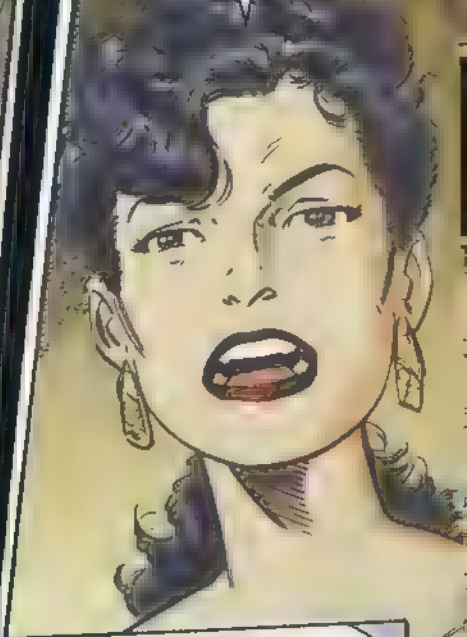
"SHE WILL LIVE!
THERE IS GREAT POWER
IN THIS SMALL FORM,
MAJESTY."

"WE RACED YOU
BACK TO THEMYSKIRA,
AND THERE..."

"AYE! AND MORE
THAN STRENGTH OF SPIRIT.
ONLY IN THE GOD-BLESSED
FORM OF PRINCESS
DIANA HAVE I EVER
SENSED A GREATER
PORTIONING OF
PRIMAL ENERGY."



INDEED? PERHAPS
THIS IS WHAT WAS SENSED
WHY I FELT THE NEED
TO REACH OUT, TO BRING HER
THROUGH THE MYSTIC
BARRIERS TO THEMYSKIRA
HERE WITH US SHE WILL
LEARN TO USE THAT
POWER WISELY.



"WE SEARCHED THE WATERS
FURTHER, BUT THERE WERE
NO OTHER SURVIVORS"

"OUR ONLY CLUE TO WHO
YOU WERE WAS THE BRACELET
YOU WORE ON YOUR SMALL
WRIST. IT BORE THE SINGLE
WORD 'ORORO,' WHICH
WE TOOK TO BE YOUR
NAME."

"IT MEANS
'BEAUTY' IN ONE
OF THE MANY LANGUAGES
OF AFRICA."



"NO!"

DO YOU NOW SAY
IT WAS BY YOUR HAND
THAT THE SHIP WHICH
BORE MY PARENTS
AND MYSELF WAS
SUNDERED?

BY YOUR HAND
MORE THAN A THOUSAND
PEOPLE PERISHED CON-
SUMED BY THE CRUEL
SEA?

I DO.
AND WHAT
OF IT?

AM I NOT A
GOD? ARE NOT MY
NEEDS SUPERIOR TO
THOSE OF MERE
MORTALS?

AND YOU,
DO YOU STILL
DENY YOUR
PLACE IN
THIS?

DENY KNOWLEDGE
OF THE MAN WHO
STOLE FROM ME THE
MATE TO THAT STATUE
YOU NOW HOLD?

THE RECENT
EARTHQUAKE
CHURNED UP
THE SEABED AS
I HOPED IT
MIGHT

"IT WAS MORE THAN
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
GONE, AS MORTALS
MEASURE TIME."

IT BROUGHT TO THE
TOP STRATA THAT'VE
BEEN HIDDEN UNDER SILT
AND SEDIMENT FOR
THOUSANDS
OF YEARS.

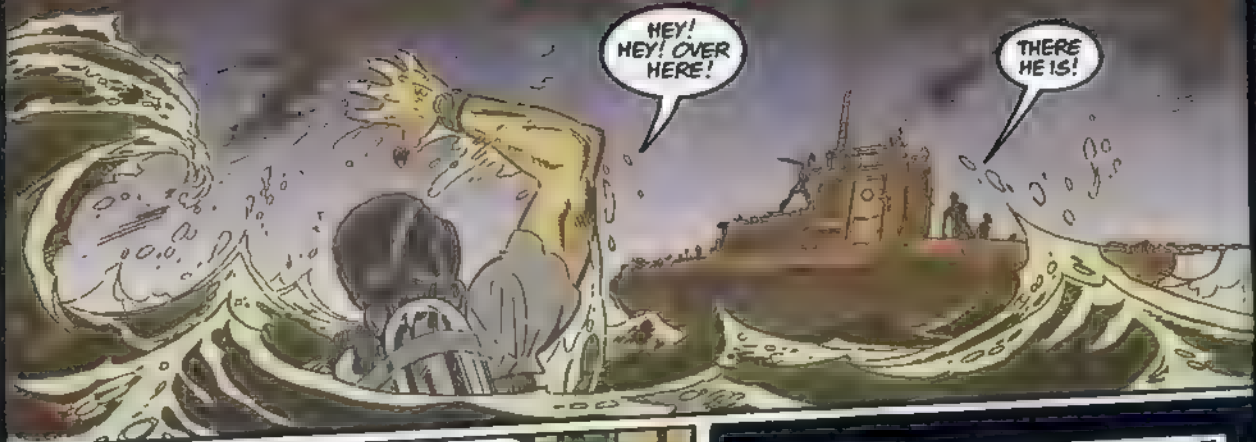
LOOK AT THIS
STUFF! IT'S LIKE SOME
FABULOUS MUSEUM
SPILLED ITS CONTENTS
HERE.

THIS PIECE ALONE IS
ASTONISHING! IF IT IS
WHAT IT APPEARS TO BE,
IT COULD CHANGE OUR
WHOLE UNDER-
STANDING OF...

HMM?

IT'S SOME
KIND OF
AFTER-
SHOCK

GOTTA
GET
TOPSIDE.



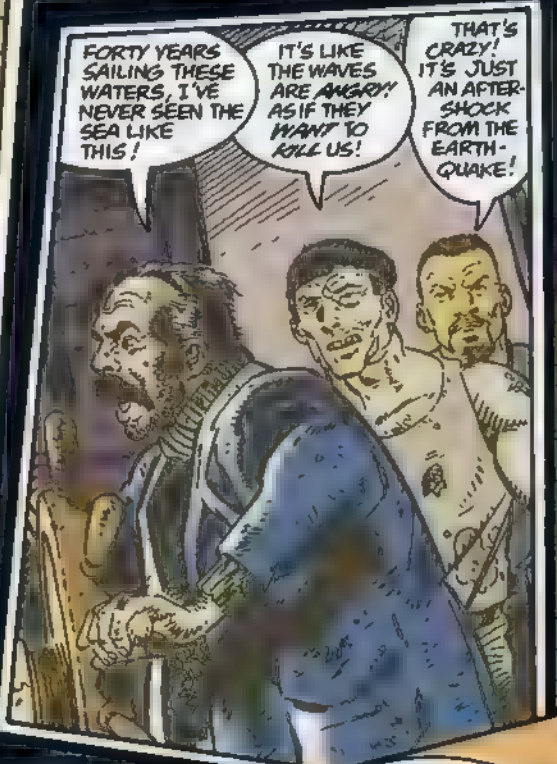
HEY!
HEY! OVER
HERE!

THERE
HE IS!



HURRY!
WE'VE GOT TO
GET UNDER
WAY!

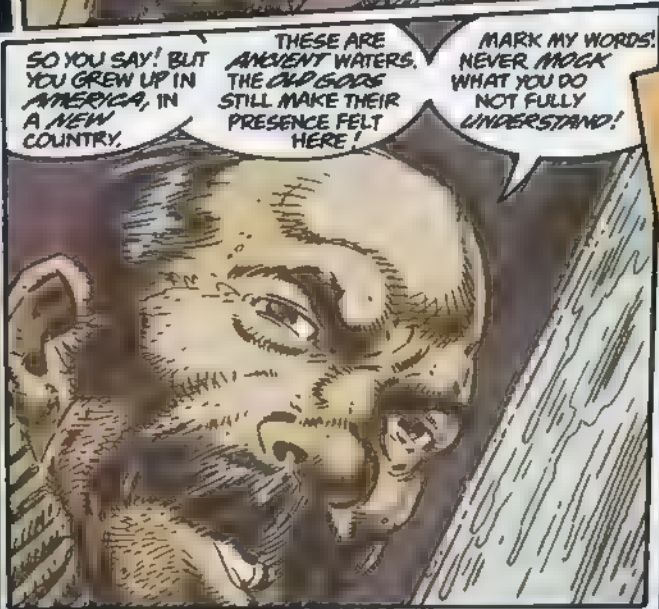
START THE ENGINES!
HEAD US INTO THE
WIND!



FORTY YEARS
SAILING THESE
WATERS, I'VE
NEVER SEEN THE
SEA LIKE
THIS!

IT'S LIKE
THE WAVES
ARE ANGRY!
AS IF THEY
WANT TO
KILL US!

THAT'S
CRAZY!
IT'S JUST AN
AFTER-
SHOCK
FROM THE
EARTH-
QUAKE!



SO YOU SAY! BUT
YOU GREW UP IN
AMERICA, IN
A NEW
COUNTRY.

THESE ARE
ANCIENT WATERS.
THE OLD GODS
STILL MAKE THEIR
PRESENCE FELT
HERE!

MARK MY WORDS!
NEVER MOCK
WHAT YOU DO
NOT FULLY
UNDERSTAND!



HE ESCAPED
ME, THAT TIME.
BUT I SET MY
CURSE UPON
HIM.

WHERESOEVER
HE WENT, SO LONG
AS HE POSSESSED THAT
WHICH HE HAD
STOLEN FROM
ME...

...IT'S AS IF SOMETHING HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF MY LIFE!

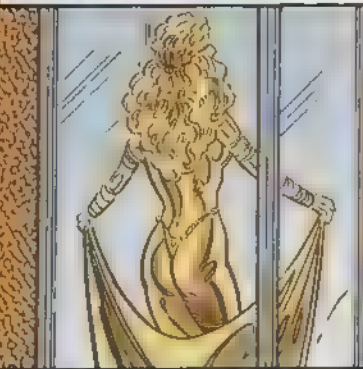
AS IF EVERY MOVE I MAKE, EVERY THOUGHT I HAVE IS TWISTED BY SOME OUTSIDE FORCE.

THAT'S PRE-POSTEROUS, MALCOLM! YOU'RE TOO SMART, TOO RATIONAL TO TRULY BELIEVE SUCH THINGS!

YOU'VE JUST HAD A STREAK OF BAD LUCK. IT HAPPENS TO EVERYONE AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER!

BAD LUCK? YOU CALL THIS "BAD LUCK"? MY WIFE LEFT ME, MY FATHER DIED, MY FUNDING HAS BEEN CUT OFF.

AND IT'S NOT JUST THE "BIG" THINGS. IT'S AS IF MY LIFE HAS BEEN DIVIDED INTO MICROSCOPIC SEGMENTS, AND SOMETHING HAS GONE WRONG WITH EVERY SINGLE ONE!



BUT I KNOW WHAT TO DO! I KNOW HOW TO FIX IT!

IT ALL STARTED THE DAY I BROUGHT UP THIS ARTIFACT FROM THE FLOOR OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.

I'M GOING TO TAKE IT BACK! I'VE BOOKED PASSAGE ON THE ARABIAN PRINCESS SHE SAILS OUT OF NEW YORK FOR CAIRO ON TUESDAY.

I DON'T KNOW, PROFESSOR MALCOLM...

I'VE SEEN A LOT OF STRANGE THINGS, TRAVELING THE WORLD IN MY JOB AS A PHOTO-JOURNALIST...

... BUT ANCIENT CURSES, THAT KIND OF VODOO...? I JUST DON'T BUY IT.

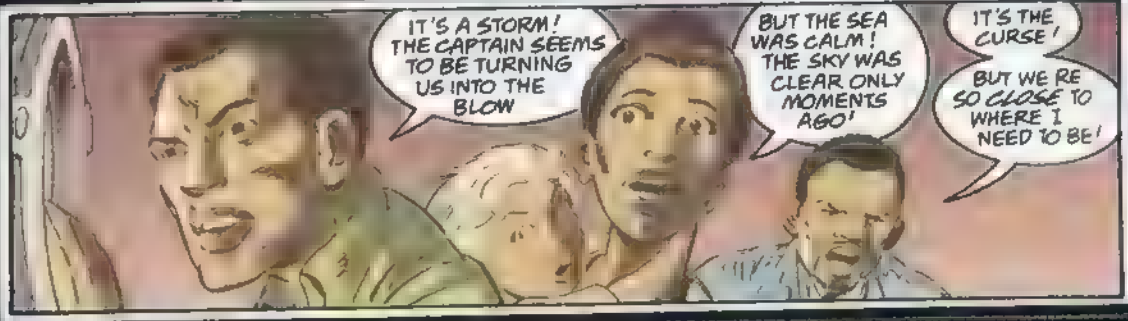
NO ONE DOES.

BUT, IF I AM WRONG, WHAT WILL IT HAVE COST ME?

I DROP THIS ARTIFACT OVER THE SIDE AS WE PASS OVER THE AREA I BROUGHT IT UP FROM...

... AND IF NOTHING CHANGES ...

WHAT WAS THAT? THE SHIP SEEMED TO... LURCH.



IT'S A STORM!
THE CAPTAIN SEEMS
TO BE TURNING
US INTO THE
BLOW

BUT THE SEA
WAS CALM!
THE SKY WAS
CLEAR ONLY
MOMENTS
AGO!

IT'S THE
CURSE!
BUT WE'RE
SO CLOSE TO
WHERE I
NEED TO BE!



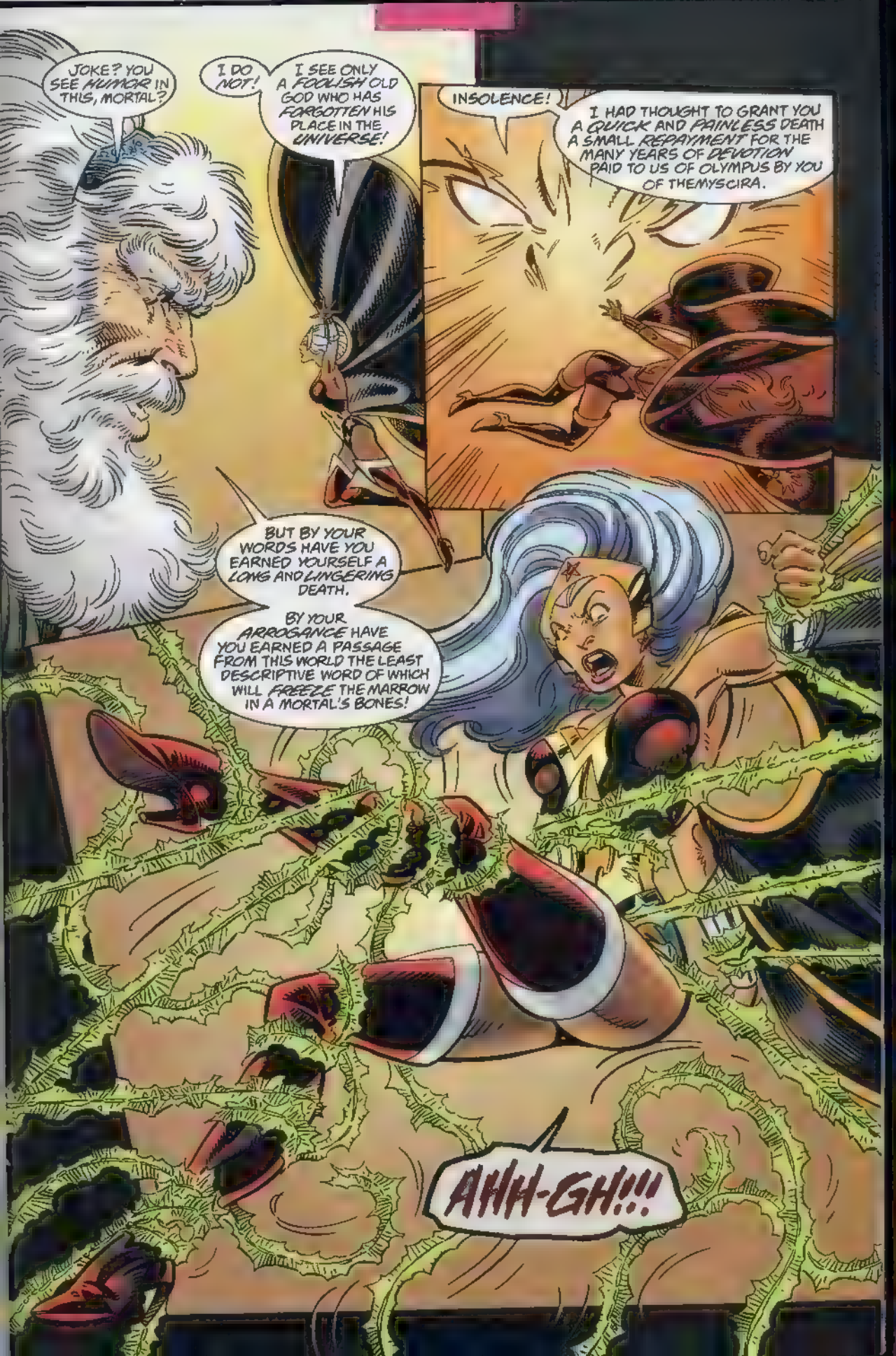
THIEF!!
SO LONG AS YOU
REMAINED ASHORE,
I COULD DO NAUGHT
BUT VEX YOU!

BUT NOW
YOU ARE IN
MY
DOMAIN?

I WAS RIGHT!
O DEAR LORD, I
WAS RIGHT!!



"IS THIS SOME
MAD JOKE??"



JOKES? YOU SEE HUMOR IN THIS, MORTAL?

I DO NOT!

I SEE ONLY A FOOLISH OLD GOD WHO HAS FORGOTTEN HIS PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE!

INSOLENCE!

I HAD THOUGHT TO GRANT YOU A QUICK AND PAINLESS DEATH A SMALL REPAYMENT FOR THE MANY YEARS OF DEVOTION PAID TO US OF OLYMPUS BY YOU OF THE MYSCIRA.

BUT BY YOUR WORDS YOU HAVE EARNED YOURSELF A LONG AND LINGERING DEATH.

BY YOUR ARROGANCE YOU HAVE EARNED A PASSAGE FROM THIS WORLD THE LEAST DESCRIPTIVE WORD OF WHICH WILL FREEZE THE MARROW IN A MORTAL'S BONES!

AHH-GH!!!

YES,
SCREAM,
AMAZON!

LET YOUR
AGONY POUR OUT
INTO THE ROCKS,
THE SEA.

LET IT
FLOOD INTO THE
VERY FABRIC OF
THIS WORLD...

... SO THAT ALL THE
FUTURE GENERATIONS
OF HUMANKIND WILL FEEL
YOUR PAIN...

AND...
THIS... IS... HOW...
A... GOD...
BEHAVES...?

... AND KNOW HOW
VAIN AND FOOLISH ARE
THOSE WHO WOULD
DARE DEFY A GOD!



YOU STILL HAVE VOICE FOR WORDS? FOR EFFRONTERY?

YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR AGONY IS BUT A FRACTION OF WHAT I CAN UNLEASH UPON YOU?

GNAH-AHHH!!

IF... THERE IS... LACK OF UNDERSTANDING... HERE, OLD GOD.

IT IS YOU WHO ARE ITS VICTIM!

SPEAK MORE PLAINLY, GIRL

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR ME TO HEAR, SAY IT NOW, WHILE YOU STILL HAVE THE WIT FOR TO SPEAK

YOU... ARE A FOOL, OLD GOD.

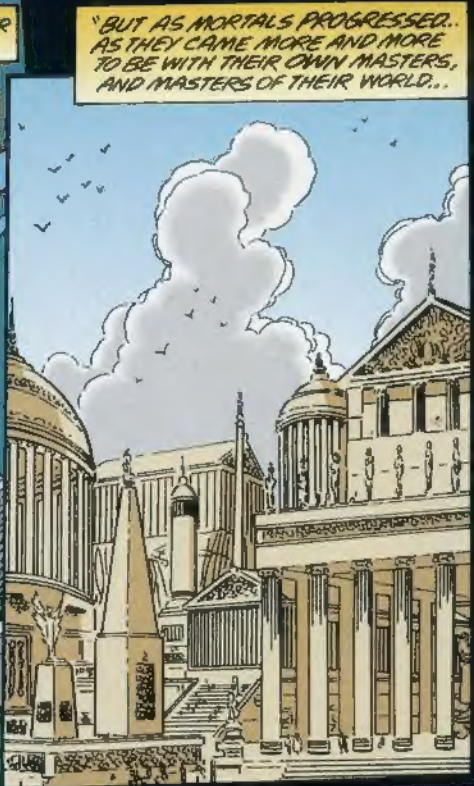
ONCE YOUR RACE STOOD ABOVE ALL THAT LIVES AS THE MOST POWERFUL ON EARTH.





"YOURS WAS THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH.

"FOR GOOD OR ILL, YOU AND YOUR BRETHREN WIELDED THAT POWER TO SHAPE THE LIVES OF HUMANKIND.



"BUT AS MORTALS PROGRESSED.. AS THEY CAME MORE AND MORE TO BE WITH THEIR OWN MASTERS, AND MASTERS OF THEIR WORLD..

"...THEY BEGAN SLOWLY TO TURN AWAY FROM YOU.

"THE TALES OF YOUR GLORIES, YOUR EXPLOITS NOBLE AND CRUEL, HAD SATISFIED THEIR NEED FOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIVERSE-- BUT ONLY FOR A WHILE.



"IN TIME THEY TURNED AWAY FROM YOU.



"OTHER GODS REPLACED YOU.

"GREATER KNOWLEDGE USURPED YOU.

"IN TIME THEY TURNED AWAY FROM YOU.

"NOW THE ONLY PLACE MORTALS REMEMBER YOU AT ALL IS IN THE HALLS OF MUSEUMS AND SCHOOLS OF ANTIQUITY."



"AND WHEN ONE MAN SOUGHT TO REKINDLE IN THE MINDS OF HIS FELLOWS THE MEMORIES OF YOUR DEEDS AND WORKS..."



"... IN YOUR PETTINESS AND GREED YOU SAW HIM ONLY AS A THIEF AND DESTROYED HIM."



I...I...

DON'T YOU SEE, SEA GOD? MY AMAZON SISTERS AND I STILL WORSHIP THE GODS OF OLYMPUS, BUT FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD YOUR TIME HAS PASSED, HUMANKIND HAS MOVED AWAY FROM YOU.

IT IS NOT FOR ME TO JUDGE IF THAT MOVE WAS WISE, BUT IF THIS IS HOW YOU TREAT THOSE LAST FEW WHO HAVE ANY RESPECT FOR YOU AT ALL...



STOP!!
YOUR WORDS SLICE TO THE VERY CENTER OF MY BEING!



YOU ARE RIGHT, AMAZON. YOU ARE RIGHT.

I AM A FOOLISH OLD GOD.

I HAVE LET PETTINESS AND GREED SHROUD MY MIND.

GO, I RELEASE YOU.

JUST LIKE THAT? NO PENANCE PAID, NO PUNISHMENT EXACTED FOR THE SLAUGHTER OF A THOUSAND INNOCENTS?

YOU SAY I AM RIGHT, BUT DO YOU TRULY THINK SO?

HOW LONG BEFORE YOUR TEMPER FLARES AGAIN? HOW LONG BEFORE YOU FORGET WHAT I HAVE TOLD YOU IN FAVOR OF YOUR MORE FAMILIAR PATTERNS OF THOUGHT?

THAT NO ONE CAN SAY, WONDER WOMAN.

SUFFICE IT THAT I HAVE LEARNED THIS DAY A BITTER LESSON. SUFFICE THAT YOU HAVE HAD SOME SMALL VENGEANCE IN BEING THE INSTRUMENT OF MY ENLIGHTENMENT.

HARDLY ENOUGH, OLD GOD.

BUT IF IT IS ALL I CAN TAKE FROM THIS DAY, I SHALL ACCEPT IT.

AND HOPE THE GHOSTS OF MY PARENTS AND A THOUSAND OTHERS REST AT LEAST A LITTLE EASIER BECAUSE OF IT!

next issue: **REUNION**

The **AMAZONS: THE CONTEST** mini-series is over.

And, in the aftermath and after 54 years of continuous publication (an impressive record matched by few titles in Amalgam's history), so is the venerated title **TALES OF THE AMAZONS...**

...And in its place are two new Amalgam titles, **BULLETS & BRACELETS** (also on sale this week!), starring Diana and The Punisher, and the book you now hold in your hands, **AMAZON**, starring Ororo. This is an auspicious event, seeing how it's Wonder Woman's first solo title since her debut in 1975's now classic **GIANT SIZE TALES OF THE AMAZONS #1**.

But just because Diana and Ororo are starring in separate titles doesn't mean they'll no longer have anything to do with one another. Both super-ladies will continue playing active roles in one another's lives and adventures. In fact, it's hardly hyperbolic to say that with the advent of both **AMAZONS** and **BULLETS & BRACELETS**, the era of Amazonian greatness is just beginning!

So, without any further ado, let's get to your letters concerning the last issues of **TALES OF THE AMAZON** and the finale of **AMAZONS: THE CONTEST...**



Dear Paul,

AMAZONS: THE CONTEST ruled!

All these years Diana and Ororo have been at odds with each other, it was great to see them (finally!) go head to head, one on one, in the winnertake-all battle that I've been waiting for. With all the history between them, I always figured that when they did finally let go and have at one another, it was going to be a whopper of a fight. I never realized it would be so savage...and that Diana had learned so much about combat from her life with Frank Castle!

Of course, Diana should have known that she didn't stand a chance of claiming the mantle of Wonder Woman for her own. She had the opportunity all those years ago, when the Amazons held the original contest to choose who would be their "ambassador" to man's world. Instead, she decided to go her own way, without the restrictions of Queen Hippolyta's rules (carving out a strange and interesting life for herself in the process to be sure), leaving the job to Ororo...but no means by default! Let's face it, even without her Amazon training, Ororo's mutant powers would make her worthy of respect and the title of Wonder Woman. Diana still has a long way to go before she reaches the same level as Ororo and deserves to

LETTERS TO PARADISE

wear the blue, red, and gold of Wonder Woman.

AMAZONS: THE CONTEST was one of the best things published by Amalgam (or anybody!) in a good number of years just on its own. What could possibly have made it better?

How about the debut of the creative team of John Byrne and Terry Austin!!! Not only is it great to have two of the most talented men in comics working on these great characters, but it reunites one of the greatest artistic teams of all times from those thrilling days of yesteryear when they were together on Judgment League-Avengers! Over the years, these two have just gotten better, and their styles still mesh beautifully. It wasn't just cool...it was a dream come true!

So now all I have to do is stay sane while I wait for the debut of **AMAZON** and **BULLETS & BRACELETS**. Wish me luck!

Warren Stempis
Brooklyn, NY

Good luck, Warren...hope you made it through the wait with sanity intact—and that it was worth the struggle. Yeah, having John and Terry back together is both a creative coup and an ongoing treat for the eyeballs! With them in the artistic saddle, AMAZON is a sure bet to be one of the shining stars of the Amalgam universe.



Dear Paul,

Yee-haaaa!

I never thought I'd be celebrating the end of my favorite title, **TALES OF THE AMAZONS**, but knowing that my single most favorite book is going to be replaced by two blockbusters makes the news of TOTA's imminent demise real easy to take!

Of course, you guys took TOTA out with a major bang, as befits a book with as long and noble a history as this one, merging the two separate 12-page features starring Wonder Woman and Diana into a single dynamic 4-issue storyline. Who would ever have expected Professor Psycho, Panthera, Circe, and Giganta to forge such an unholy alliance? Who would ever have thought these four villains could work together, even if it was to take their respective revenges on Diana and Ororo. And it should come as no shock to you that the

behind-the-scenes role of **BRUCE WAYNE, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.** in this whole mess came as a total shock to me; honestly, I never saw this one coming! Let's have more of Wayne in these books!

I'm excited about the upcoming **AMAZONS: THE CONTEST** mini-series (and for more than the reuniting of

the fabulous John Byrne/Terry Austin team...although that in itself would make **THE CONTEST** worth picking up!) and breathless with anticipation over the upcoming new series, **AMAZON** and **BULLETS & BRACELETS**. You've given me a whole lot of years' worth of entertaining...and from all that's coming from the Amazon-office (and the rest of Amalgam), the best is yet to come!

Max Landes
Muscatine, IA

We kinda thought Bruce Wayne's appearance would take everybody by surprise, Max. Don't know when he'll be making any return appearance, though, seeing as how he's busy in his own new title, which makes its debut this very week from Amalgam.



Dear Paul,

Are you people insane? After over 50 years, you're gonna cancel **TALES OF THE AMAZONS**, one of the longest running titles in the history of comics! What's wrong with Ororo and Diana continuing to share the title, with the occasional crossover for book-length stories? I protest this, Amalgam, and if you do indeed go through with it, I wish you nothing less than a pox on your house!

Randy Hu
New York, NY

Eeeeeuuww! Now we're gonna have to have the house repainted...!

NEXT ISSUE: Diana's return to Batou Rouge is anything but triumphant as she seeks the one person who can help her...the Amazon sister who she's always spurned, Ororo. Written and pencilled by John Byrne and inked by Terry Austin.

BULLETS & BRACELETS #1: With their son Ryan kidnapped, Diana and The Punisher are willing to go to the ends of the Earth to save him... never expecting that their search will take them beyond that—to Apokolips! Written by John Ostrander, with art by Gary Frank and Cam Smith.

AMALGAM



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